and scientific personnel designated to participate in the studies and joint working groups set up to examine specific issues, and encouragement of co-operation in the field of exploration and utilisation of outer space between and within the Government, the private sector and the academia in both countries.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Australia, China, the European Space Agency, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Syria, the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

Bottling Plants in the Eastern States

2099. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some LPG bottling plants in the eastern States;

(b) if so, the number of such plants proposed to be set up by Indian Oil Corporation in the eastern States;

(c) the State-wise details thereof; and

(d) the amount of investment proposed to be made by IOC in the new bottling plants, as proposed in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) To meet the future demand, the following LPG Bottling plants are proposed to be set up by IOC in the eastern States under the VIII Plan period:

State	*Location*	*Capacity (TMTPA)*
Sikkim	Rangpo	5
Tripura	Bishalgarh	5
W. Bengal	Budge Budge	44
Assam	Guwahati	47
Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair	5
Bihar	Patna	44
Bihar	Bokaro	22
Manipur	Manipur	10
Nagaland	Dimapur	5
Mizoram	Mizoram	5
Meghalaya	Meghalaya	5
Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	5

The total amount of investment to be made by IOC in the new bottling plants is expected to be around Rs. 320.00 Crores.

Income Generation for Rural Women

2100. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to promote income generating activities for women in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any initiative under the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWRCA) or any other scheme, has been taken during the 8th five Year Plan; and

(d) the State-wise details of achievments in that Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA-DEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Implementation of the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) Programme has been taken up in all the disricts of the country with the objective of, providing income generating skills and activities to poor women in rural areas with a view to improving their social and economic status. Under this programme, rural women who are below the poverty line from groups of 10—15 members each for taking up economic activities/Income